



*Emerging Issues Subcommittee of the
Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group
Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2007*

Summary

Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members in Attendance (8):

Phillip Stevenson (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)
Dennis Embry, Chair (PAXIS Institute)
Charles Katz (Arizona State University, Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network)
Wendy Wolfersteig (Arizona State University, Arizona Prevention Resource Center)
Judith Fritsch (Department of Economic Security, Community Partnerships and Innovative Practices)
Julie Treinen (Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)
Mona Polacca (Inter Tribal Council of Arizona)—proxy for Alida Montiel
Christina Cutshaw (University of Arizona)—via conference call

Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members Absent (6):

Wanda LeClere MacDonald (Navajo Behavioral Health Services, Navajo Nation)
Joan McNamara (Pima County/Tucson Commission on Drug Addiction and Prevention, Compass Health Care)
Jerry Boehm (Arizona Council of Human Service Providers)
Jody Sekerak (Indian Health Services)
John Morris (Yavapai County Drug Courts)
Meena Shahi (Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services)

Governor's Office Staff:

Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF)

Public:

David Choate (Arizona State University, Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network)
Richard Porter (Arizona Department of Health Services)



Call to Order was made by Dennis Embry at 10:15 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

- Dennis Embry asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group and explain what they hoped to gain from their membership on the group.
 - Dennis indicated that he would like to see a “Dashboard” for Arizona and projects aimed at predicting outcomes for the state.
 - Charles Katz indicated that he would like to see meetings that were approximately an hour in length that were oriented toward action and decisions.
 - Christina Cutshaw indicated her interest in risk and protective factors and interventions/intervention supports within the community.
 - Judith Fritsch indicated her interest in the community. Specifically, she indicated her interest in prevention issues and information dissemination within communities and cultural competence.
 - Mona Polacca (acting as a proxy for Alida Montiel) indicated that she was interested in tribes staying connected to state treatment/prevention (policy/financial) efforts.
 - David Choate indicated that he wanted to see meaningful outcomes from the subcommittee and would like to build agency coalitions.
 - Julie Treinen was interested in community prevention and this committee not overlapping the work performed by other committees.
 - Wendy Wolfersteig indicated her interest in determining how the group will identify issues (e.g., through an adult prevalence survey)
 - Phillip Stevenson indicated that he would like the group to get its information/data from youth in the community who are experimenting with substances rather than from government bureaucrats.
 - Richard Porter noted that he would like the Emerging Issues subcommittee to examine issues in more depth than has previously been the case.

ASAP Flowchart

- Phillip Stevenson informed the group that the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership was formed for several reasons:
 - To avoid duplicating efforts by state agencies
 - To ensure collaboration between subcommittees
 - To share information among partner agencies and subcommittees, including the sharing of subcommittee chair reports in written format and a possible website

Overview of Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group and the Emerging Issues Subcommittee

- To ensure that everyone was aware of the groups’ purposes, Phillip Stevenson shared the overview of both the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group and the Emerging Issues subcommittee.



Impact of the Emerging Issues Subcommittee: Desired Outcomes

Potential Projects: Predictive Modeling; Early Warning Network (Emerging Trends)

- Dennis Embry discussed in further detail the desired outcomes as stated by the group members in the beginning of the meeting and discussed some ideas of his own.
 - Inter-relationships/regressions—predictive modeling
 - Methamphetamine trend line to be conducted by ASU—Charles Katz and David Choate to estimate the “footprint” of methamphetamine
 - Dennis Embry motioned for this forward/projection analysis to be conducted with pictures to be added by Dennis and Richard Porter seconded the motion (motion passed)
 - Mock-up to be finished by mid-January.
 - Cost Analysis to answer the questions: where will interventions be the most effective; at what point will the trajectory be most likely to change?
 - Christina Cutshaw noted that children in the juvenile delinquency system are likely to be similar to children in the Child Protective Services system.
 - Dennis Embry informed the group of the “Billy Case Study” conducted by him and his colleagues in which a cost analysis of a mock child involved in multiple systems over the life course was conducted to inform policy.
 - Judy Treinen moved that she would follow up with data to help inform a similar analysis to determine the feasibility of such a project; the motion was seconded by Dennis Embry.
 - Charles Katz posed the question of whether our focus is on recreational vs. chronic use/onset of use vs. chronic use.
 - The following goals were discussed:
 - Find ways to make earlier impacts (with trajectory determination)
 - Cost-benefit analysis
 - Charles Katz indicated his methodological concerns over sampling and synthetic cost/benefit analyses and noted that the risk of action can sometimes outweigh the risk of inaction. He also indicated that we may need to rely on data that is already available.
 - Dennis Embry questioned whether we need to be precise when we are designing something that informs policy and budget makers, indicating that this is the difference between science and policy.
 - Identification of new threats/trends and attempt to enact change



- Focus groups with homeless youth; charge nurses; incarcerated youth; probation population (e.g., court-involved youth)
- Dennis Embry posed the question of how we institute a data-building system.
- Literature review on predictive modeling.
- Potential problems include:
 - ICD-9 has no methamphetamine category (only an amphetamine category)

Development of an Action Plan and Tasks by Members

- Jeanne Blackburn asked the group members to look over the action plan document that she handed out and provide any feedback/input via e-mail.

Future Meetings: Dates and Times

- For the next meeting, members were tasked with several items:
 - Give thought to potential samples for surveys on emerging issues
 - Julie Treinen will follow-up on potential data for a "Billy Case Study"
 - Charles Katz will follow-up on methamphetamine "footprint" data.

Call to Public

- No one from the public offered any input.

Adjourn at 12:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF).